

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3721
Docket No.: 1916.1001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Michihito KUMAYAMA

Serial No. 10/564,979

Group Art Unit: 3721

Confirmation No. 5431

Filed: January 18, 2006

Examiner: Lindsay M. Low

For: STAPLER AND CONNECTED STAPLE ASSEMBLY CASSETTE

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: **MAIL STOP AF**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 18, 2008 and having a non-extended period for response set to expire on June 18, 2008.

Although the outstanding Office Action was made final, this Amendment is filed to amend the claims to be in condition for allowance. More specifically, independent claim 3 is amended to include the features of "objected to" claim 12, and claim 12 is canceled. Claim 14 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, and should therefore be allowable since it depends from claim 3. Other rejected claims are canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that entering this Amendment will clearly place the application in condition for allowance. For these reasons, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered.